

Cropland Use in 1997

- One or more crops will be harvested from an estimated 321 million acres of land in 1997, up from 314 million acres last year and the largest area harvested since 1985.
- The increase in cropland harvested in 1997 is likely land that had been idled in annual Federal programs in 1995 and earlier years, but not placed back in production until 1997.
- Total cropland used--cropland harvested, failed, summer fallowed, and in Federal programs--is less in 1997 than during most of the 1980's and early 1990's, when a larger acreage was idled by Federal programs.

An estimated 353 million acres are expected to be used for crops in 1997, up 7 million from 1996, up 21 million from 1995, and the highest acreage since 1986 (table 1, figure). This increase resulted from a continued increase in cropland harvested due to a previously idled land moving back into production and, as of mid-July, a smaller crop failure (estimated) than in 1996.

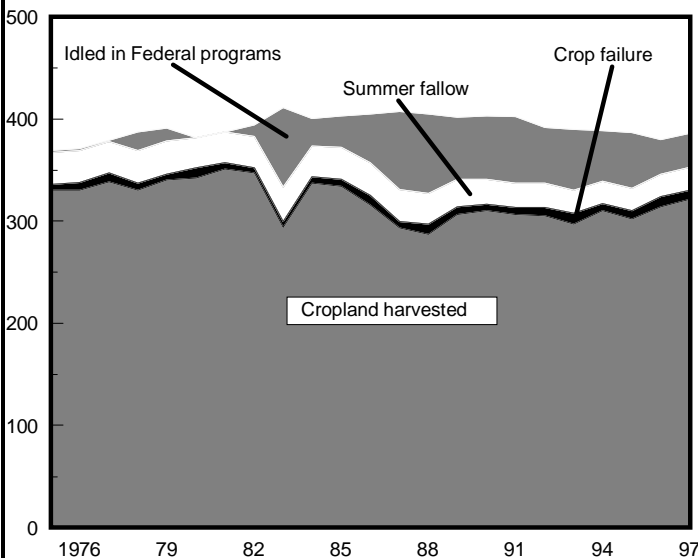
Harvest estimates of principal crops total 320 million acres. With minor crops, total harvested acres will likely rise to nearly 333 million acres. Nearly 12 million of the harvested acres are estimated to be double-cropped. Adjusted for double cropping, cropland harvested will total more than 321 million acres, up 7 million acres from 1996 and 19 million acres from 1995.

Estimated cropland harvested is up more than 11 percent in the Southern Plains but less than 3 percent in the other farm production regions (table 2). Cropland harvested is estimated to decline from 1996 levels in the Delta States and the Pacific farm production regions.

Nearly 46 percent of the cropland remaining idle because of enrollment in the CRP is in the Northern Plains and Mountain regions (table 3). An additional 30 percent is in the Corn Belt and Southern Plains regions. Due to changes in farm programs, no cropland has

Major Uses of U.S. Cropland

Million acres



Source: USDA, ERS, developed from various published and unpublished data.

been idled in annual Federal crop programs in 1996 or in 1997 (table 4). The land shown as idled in the CRP does not include any of the 16.1 million acres of land added to the CRP as a result of the 15th signup, as announced in May 1997. Most of this acreage will enter the CRP in October 1997, and the balance in October 1998.

The 1997 estimated harvested acres of corn, oats, wheat, soybeans, cotton, and rice are up from 1996, with soybeans accounting for the largest increase (table 5). The acres of sorghum and barley estimated to be harvested in 1997 are down from 1996.

Contact: Arthur Daugherty, NRED, (202) 219-0424 [arthurd@econ.ag.gov].

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AREI UPDATES is a periodic series that supplements and updates information in **Agricultural Resources and Environmental Indicators (AREI)**, USDA, ERS, AH-705, Dec. 1994. **UPDATES** report recent data from surveys of farm operators and others knowledgeable about changing agricultural resource use and conditions, with only minimal interpretation or analysis. Please contact the individual listed at the end of the text for additional information about the data in this **UPDATE**. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or have other questions about **AREI UPDATES** or **AREI**, contact Richard Magleby, (202) 219-0436 [rmagleby@econ.ag.gov]. **AREI UPDATES** are available on the ERS web site—<http://www.econ.ag.gov/Briefing/arei/arei.htm>—and on AutoFax (202) 219-1107 (wait until voice prompt gives all options, then press 4; when prompted again, enter 20200 and 20300 to get listings of available issues for 1996 and 1997).

Table 1—Major uses of cropland, United States, 1988-97¹

Cropland	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 ²
	<i>Million acres</i>									
Cropland used for crops ³	327	341	341	337	337	330	339	332	346	353
Cropland harvested ⁴	287	306	310	306	305	297	310	302	314	321
Crop failure	10	8	6	7	8	11	7	8	10	9
Cultivated summer fallow	30	27	25	24	24	22	22	22	22	23
Cropland idled by all										
Federal programs ³	78	61	62	65	55	60	49	55	34	33
Annual programs	53	31	28	30	20	23	13	18	0	0
Conservation Reserve Program	25	30	34	35	35	36	36	36	34	33
Total, specified uses ^{3,5}	405	402	403	402	392	389	388	388	380	386

¹Includes the 48 contiguous States. Fewer than 200,000 acres were used for crops in Alaska and Hawaii.

²Preliminary, subject to revision.

³Breakdown may not add to totals due to rounding.

⁴A double-cropped acre is counted as 1 acre.

⁵Does not include cropland pasture or idle land not in Federal programs that is normally included in the total cropland base.

Source: USDA, ERS, developed from a variety of published and unpublished data from FSA (formerly ASCS), ERS, and NASS.

Table 2—Cropland used for crops in 1997, and 1996-97 change, by region

Region	Cropland used for crops ¹			Share of all cropland used for crops
	Cropland harvested	Crop failure	Summer fallow	
	<i>Million acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
1996:	-----			-----
Northeast	10.5	0.2	-	3.0
Lake States	34.9	0.6	-	10.1
Corn Belt	82.8	1.1	-	23.8
Northern Plains	77.1	1.8	11.2	25.5
Appalachian	17.1	0.4	-	5.0
Southeast	10.6	0.4	-	3.1
Delta States	15.9	0.3	-	4.6
Southern Plains	30.2	2.8	0.7	9.6
Mountain	26.4	0.7	8.3	10.0
Pacific	16.0	0.3	2.5	5.3
United States ^{2, 3}	321.5	8.6	22.7	100.0
1996-97 change:	-----			-----
	<i>Percent</i>			
Northeast	1.9	0.0	⁴	1.9
Lake States	2.3	0.0	⁴	2.0
Corn Belt	2.6	-26.7	⁴	1.9
Northern Plains	1.0	-10.0	3.7	1.1
Appalachian	1.8	0.0	⁴	1.7
Southeast	1.0	0.0	⁴	0.9
Delta States	-0.6	0.0	⁴	-0.6
Southern Plains	11.4	-20.0	3.6	7.4
Mountain	1.9	0.0	2.5	2.0
Pacific	-1.8	0.0	4.2	-1.1
United States ^{2, 3}	2.4	-14.0	3.3	2.0

- = None or fewer than 50,000 acres.

¹ Preliminary. Based on farmers' intentions to harvest.

² Breakdown may not add to totals due to rounding.

³ Includes the 48 conterminous States. Fewer than 100,000 acres were used for the principal crops in Alaska and Hawaii.

⁴ No change or less than 0.05 percent.

Source: USDA, ERS, developed from various published and unpublished data.

Table 3—Cropland idled under Federal acreage reduction programs, by region, 1988-97

Cropland	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 ¹
<i>Million acres</i>										
Northeast	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2
Lake States	6.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.0	5.6	3.4	4.2	2.8	2.6
Corn Belt	13.9	8.8	9.0	8.2	7.3	10.0	6.0	8.7	5.4	4.8
Northern Plains	20.8	15.8	16.8	18.4	14.8	15.0	12.5	15.4	8.9	8.6
Appalachian	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.0	0.9
Southeast	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.3	1.5	1.5
Delta States	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.2	1.2
Southern Plains	12.0	10.0	9.8	11.0	9.0	9.1	8.8	8.5	5.1	5.1
Mountain	10.2	9.1	9.6	10.5	9.3	9.1	8.8	8.9	6.5	6.4
Pacific	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.6	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	1.7	1.7
United States ^{2,3}	77.7	60.8	61.6	64.5	54.9	59.8	49.2	54.8	34.4	32.9

¹ March 1997 estimate of enrollment in the CRP for FY97.

² Includes the 48 conterminous States. Because of rounding, regional data may not sum to U.S. totals.

³ Includes cropland idled in 0,50/85-92 programs. Does not include about 0.5 million acres in 1991, 0.7 million acres in 1992, 0.8 million acres in 1993, 1.6 million acres in 1994, and 1.3 million acres in 1995 enrolled in 0,50/85-92 programs and planted to minor oilseeds. Also includes 2.0 million acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program in 1986, 15.7 million acres enrolled in 1987, 24.5 million acres enrolled in 1988, 29.8 million acres enrolled in 1989, 33.9 million acres enrolled in 1990, 34.4 million acres enrolled in 1991, 35.4 million acres enrolled in 1992, and 36.4 million acres enrolled in 1993, 1994, and 1995.

Source: USDA, ERS, developed from various published and unpublished data from FSA.

Table 4—Cropland idled under Federal acreage reduction programs by program and crop, 1988-97

Program and crop	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 ¹
<i>Million acres</i>										
Annual programs, base acres:										
Corn	20.5	10.8	10.7	7.4	5.2	10.7	2.0	7.5	0	0
Sorghum	3.9	3.3	3.3	2.4	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.6	0	0
Barley	2.8	2.3	2.9	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.4	0	0
Oats	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	0	0
Wheat	22.5	9.6	7.5	15.6	7.3	5.4	4.6	5.5	0	0
Cotton	2.2	3.5	2.0	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.7	0.2	0	0
Rice	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.5	0	0
Total, annual programs ²	53.3	30.9	27.7	30.1	19.5	23.4	12.8	18.4	0	0
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), base acres: ³										
Corn	2.8	3.4	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.0	N.A.
Sorghum	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	N.A.
Barley	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	N.A.
Oats	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	N.A.
Wheat	7.1	8.8	10.3	10.4	10.6	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.5	N.A.
Cotton	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	N.A.
Rice	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁴	⁴
Total CRP-idled base acres ²	15.5	19.0	21.8	22.0	22.6	23.3	23.3	23.3	22.3	N.A.
Total base acres idled ²	68.8	49.9	49.5	52.1	42.1	46.7	36.1	41.7	22.3	N.A.
Total CRP-idled nonbase acres	8.9	10.9	12.1	12.4	12.8	13.2	13.2	13.2	12.1	N.A.
Total cropland idled under Federal programs ²	77.7	60.8	61.6	64.5	54.9	59.8	49.2	54.8	34.4	32.9

N.A. = Not available.

¹ Preliminary estimates of remaining enrollment in the CRP for FY97.

² Because of rounding, crop acreages may not sum to totals. Base acreages idled under 0/92 and 50/92 programs from 1986 through 1992 are included in annual program data. However, base acres of feed grains and wheat enrolled in 0/92 and planted to oilseeds or other permitted crops in 1991 (0.5 million acres), in 1992 (0.7 million acres), in 1993 (1.0 million acres), in 1994 (1.6 million acres), and in 1995 (1.5 million acres) are not included.

³ Program began in 1986. Small acreages of peanut and tobacco base were bid into the CRP in addition to the crops listed.

⁴ Less than 50,000 acres.

Source: USDA, ERS, developed from various published and unpublished data from FSA.

Table 5—Harvested area of major crops, by region, 1991-97

Crop and period	North-east	Lake States	Corn Belt	Northern Plains	Appalachian	South-east	Delta States	Southern Plains	Mountain	Pacific	United States ¹
<i>Million acres</i>											
Corn: ²											
1991-95 avg.	1.8	11.1	33.8	13.2	3.0	1.2	0.6	1.9	1.1	0.3	67.9
1996	2.4	12.2	34.1	15.1	3.1	1.3	1.4	2.0	1.2	0.4	73.1
1997 ³	2.5	11.8	35.1	15.5	3.2	1.2	1.1	2.0	1.3	0.4	74.0
Sorghum: ²											
1991-95 avg.	-	-	0.8	4.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	3.3	0.3	⁴	9.4
1996	-	-	0.8	5.8	⁴	⁴	0.4	4.3	0.5	-	11.9
1997 ³	-	-	0.6	4.5	⁴	⁴	0.3	3.6	0.4	-	9.5
Barley:											
1991-95 avg.	0.2	0.8	-	2.9	0.1	⁴	-	⁴	2.4	0.7	7.0
1996	0.2	0.6	-	2.8	0.1	⁴	-	⁴	2.3	0.8	6.8
1997 ³	0.2	0.7	-	2.3	0.1	⁴	-	⁴	2.3	0.8	6.4
Oats:											
1991-95 avg.	0.3	1.1	0.6	1.3	⁴	0.1	⁴	0.2	0.2	0.1	4.0
1996	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.9	⁴	⁴	⁴	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.7
1997 ³	0.3	0.8	0.5	1.0	⁴	0.1	⁴	0.2	0.2	0.1	3.2
Wheat:											
1991-95 avg.	0.6	3.1	4.4	27.3	1.6	0.8	1.3	8.6	9.7	3.9	61.2
1996	0.7	3.2	4.4	27.3	1.8	0.7	1.6	7.8	10.9	4.4	62.8
1997 ³	0.6	3.1	3.9	27.4	1.8	0.8	1.1	9.5	11.2	4.1	63.5
Soybeans:											
1991-95 avg.	1.2	7.6	30.8	7.5	3.9	1.4	6.3	0.5	-	-	59.2
1996	1.1	8.4	33.2	8.5	4.0	1.3	6.3	0.6	-	-	63.4
1997 ³	1.2	9.6	35.1	10.5	4.3	1.4	7.0	0.7	-	-	69.8
Cotton:											
1991-95 avg.	-	-	0.4	⁴	1.2	1.5	3.2	5.4	0.5	1.1	13.2
1996	-	-	0.4	⁴	1.3	2.3	3.0	4.3	0.4	1.2	12.8
1997 ³	-	-	0.4	⁴	1.2	2.2	2.4	5.7	0.4	1.0	13.3
Rice:											
1991-95 avg.	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	2.2	0.3	-	0.4	3.0
1996	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	1.9	0.3	-	0.5	2.8
1997 ³	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	2.2	0.3	-	0.5	3.0

- = None reported.

¹ Includes the 48 contiguous States. Because of rounding, regional acres may not sum to U.S. totals.

² Corn and sorghum for grain.

³ Preliminary, subject to revision.

⁴ Less than 50,000 acres.

Source: USDA, ERS, compiled from NASS, *Crop Production*, annual summary and monthly reports.

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Natural Resources and Environment Division
1301 New York Ave., NW, rm 524
Washington, DC 20005-4788

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